

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. Because our gospel came to you not simply with words but with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. We were not looking for praise from

people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. 7 Instead, we were like young children among you, encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom

and strengthen you. May he be blameless in the presence of our God and Father Lord Jesus when our Lord comes with all his holy ones. It is God's will that you should be sanctified: that you should avoid sexual immorality. And to make it your ambition to lead a quiet life: You should mind your own business and your hands, just as we told you. Brothers, we do not want you to be un-

informed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still

alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will

be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. Pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. For God did not appoint us

## Homework - 6

*In Chapters 4 and 5, Paul challenges his readers to live holy (set apart) lives that are pleasing to God. In particular he explains how their view of sex, community, work and death should be radically different than the prevailing view of their culture. Before moving on to this section, take a few minutes to reflect on what He showed you last week about holiness in your view of sex.*

### I. Read 4:13-5:11

- What is the "big idea" of the passage?
- What are some repeated words or phrases?
- Why do you think Paul wrote this passage of scripture?

### II. Let's focus on 4:13-18.

- What reasons for Christians to have hope are mentioned here?
  - Specifically, how does the death and resurrection of Jesus give us hope?
  - How does the resurrection of Jesus affect your daily life?

b. Paul talks about “those who have fallen asleep” in this section. List what you learn about those who are asleep.

c. What contrasts does Paul use in these verses to further explain what it means to be asleep?

d. There are many details about the second coming of Christ that are not revealed in Scripture. What details *are* revealed here?

e. What does Paul say in verse 18 is the purpose of these words? How does this passage of scripture fulfill the purpose?